

Wednesday Whistle

WeST Model of Operation

- The concept of WeST 'Hub' working has now been shared through this forum, WeST Primary and Secondary heads groups and at the WeST Governance Conference.
- The driving principles behind the approach are
 - ⇒ Geographical tightness
 - ⇒ Pyramid of children transitioning from primary to secondary provision
 - ⇒ Improved opportunity for KS2 – KS3 curriculum work
 - ⇒ Enhanced delivery capacity through staff being located in a hub
 - ⇒ Greater understanding and strengthened relationships through regular 'contact' & visibility
- Evidence from other School Trust's is that this is a successful operating model

- WeST Primary Headteachers have determined that they will adopt the new 'Hub' model with effect from 1st January 2020.
- The hubs will incorporate Ashburton Primary School and Buckfastleigh Primary School despite those schools not legally being part of WeST at that point.
- It is now imperative that we determine how our 'business functions' transpose into the hub model.
- Logic would suggest that a 'natural fit' from the existing position to the new will not always be possible. In such cases we should strive to reach the best possible position in relation to the spirit of the new hub model.

Best wishes,

Rob Haring

CEO



Stronger Together...every child in a great school

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Looking after your financial well-being at Christmas



Christmas is definitely a time for giving, however we all need to be mindful of our spending and how it may affect our own emotional health and wellbeing. Here is our list of Christmas Top Tips to manage your spending over the Christmas period:

1. Set your festive budget

Setting a festive budget is probably the single most useful step you can take – but fewer than one in three of us do this. Make a list of the people you want to buy presents for, set a budget for each and stick to it. Plan ahead when it comes to your other shopping too; for example, on food, decorations and visiting family and friends.

2. Keep paying bills

Don't forget: in December you still need to pay your normal household bills, such as your mortgage or rent and your utilities. If you get paid earlier than usual, consider paying these bills straight away, so you know that what you have left is what you can spend on Christmas.

3. Spread the cost

There are lots of good deals around at Christmas, so make sure you shop around to get the best price. You could leave buying your presents until later in the month as sales often start early. You could also spread the cost of Christmas over the whole of December by buying non-perishable food items earlier in the month.

4. Resist borrowing more

It can be very tempting to borrow money to pay for the cost of Christmas. Think about whether you can afford to pay it back. If you do decide to take out credit, check the terms and conditions and create a personal budget to make sure you can afford the repayments.

5. Just buy for kids

You could agree with your family just to buy for the children. If you still want to buy for adults, you could consider doing a 'Secret Santa' so that each adult only buys one gift. Handmade presents are often cheaper and have that personal touch.

6. Look out for free activities

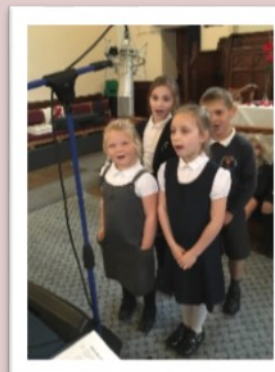
With the kids off school there is always pressure to keep them entertained. If you're not careful, the cost of keeping them busy will soon mount up! Find out if there are free activities in your area over the holiday period. They may be advertised in the local newspaper, libraries, and community centres.



Oreston Community Academy Choir



Our choir had a busy Monday morning recording the tracks for their Christmas Choir album 2019! They all sang beautifully and were very professional! A huge thanks to Oreston Methodist Church for letting us use the church to record and also to Gordon from dBs Music for sharing his time and expertise to record the choir!



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Nancy Astor Special

Nancy Astor - Equality and Representation



Ivybridge Community College was honoured to be one of a number of schools who supported the fund-raising for the statue of the first woman MP, Nancy Astor.

On Thursday, 25 November this was achieved, when a group of students from the College attended the unveiling ceremony by Theresa May, on the Hoe, in Plymouth, near Lady Astor's family home.

Nancy Astor was elected to represent Plymouth Sutton in Devon for the Conservative Party, a seat she held until stepping down in 1945. A fitting quote by Lady Astor is engraved onto the plinth, which reads, "Real education should educate us out of self into something far finer; into a selflessness which links us with all humanity."

Mrs May said, "For two years she was the only woman in a house which was quite simply not designed for women. A place for honourable gentlemen, of smoking rooms, and with no ladies loos. But she ignored the jeering, the patronising and the bawdy jokes and began to make the House of Commons an easier place for the many, but still too few, women who followed her. Plymouth and the whole country should be proud of the great strides Nancy Astor made for equality and representation."

"It is for this very reason that students from Ivybridge Community College felt it was important to attend the ceremony, to ensure that we uphold the importance of the British value of democracy", said Mrs Taylor, Deputy Principal.

Miss Hanton, Associate Leader at the College who organised the event said, "It was fantastic to see such a wide range of students attending this celebration, with students from Year 7 up to Sixth Form in attendance. It was a privilege to attend and to hear the students discuss how vitally important it is to continue to fight for equality within politics."



Woodlands Park Children Celebrate Difference



Last week we celebrated differences in school. The Year 5/6 girls went on a trip to The Hoe, raising their awareness of narrowing the gender gap. We celebrated a day that was organised by a huge group of successful women, including female drivers, police officers, artists, reporters and leaders. Our girls were positive female leaders, spreading success and we hope you saw that we made it to lots of local press due to this, Thank you to the massive team that ensured this event ran smoothly.



Written by Tumi Schnoor & Tabitha Nichol

"On 28 November, the Year 5/6 girls went on a trip to see the unveiling of the Lady Nancy Astor statue on The Hoe at Plymouth. During the trip, the girls sang anti bullying songs to celebrate differences and we all enjoyed meeting Theresa May at the end of the ceremony. Also, we did philosophy activities helping us to experience what it would be like to be an MP like Nancy Astor. We all learnt so much history about The Hoe and really enjoyed the day. "

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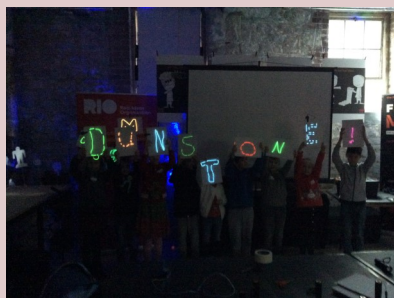
Illuminate!



On Friday, a group of children from Y4 at Dunstone Primary were invited to take part in a workshop as part of the Illuminate Festival at the Royal William Yard. The children were taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the event and got the chance to see some of the installations and sculptures up close! We were especially excited to see our Illuminated fish which we had created to be part of the display in the Future Make workshop.

After this, they went to take part in activities all around the theme of light. Children worked with neon 'string' to weave patterns and shapes into cardboard - like making mini neon signs. They worked as a team to create the word 'Dunstone!' before getting to make their own shadow puppets and to think about how to use the lights to create different effects with the cardboard.

We were very lucky to be there when visitors from the Arts Council came to take a tour of the event and they spoke to us about what we were doing and how we work as an Arts Mark school to promote the arts through our curriculum.



A Blast from the Tudor Past



Pine class at Yealmpton Primary were incredibly lucky to welcome a very special, royal visitor to their class on Wednesday. King Henry VIII graced the children with his presence and introduced them to a fantastic period of history – The Tudors. The children took part in a time line activity, played Tudor card games, went on a Tudor trail and learned lots of new facts about Henry VIII, his many wives and the battles that led to the Tudor house taking the crown. Huge thanks to Adrian Chapman from 'Blast from the Past' for providing the children with a brilliant learning opportunity.



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NOTICE BOARD

Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

Glen Park Primary

- Meal Time Assistant

<https://www.glenpark.plymouth.sch.uk/community-1/job-vacancies>

Holbeton Primary School

- Teaching Assistant (grade C) Full-time
- Teaching Assistant (grade B) Part-time

[https://www.holbeton.devon.sch.uk/page/?](https://www.holbeton.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=82)

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Heles School

- Premises Manager
- Operations Manager
- 2x Learning Support Assistants

<https://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/category/vacancies>

Oreston Community Academy

- EY Teaching Assistant

<https://www.orestonacademy.com/current-vacancies/>

The Learning Institute, Roche

- Digital Communications Coordinator

<https://www.learninginstitute.co.uk/vacancies>

Woodlands Park Primary School

- Temporary Teacher (0.5)

<https://www.woodlandspark.devon.sch.uk/vacancies>

Vacancies (cont)

Westcountry Schools Trust

Head of Timetable Planning (Devon Grade T)

We are seeking to internally appoint an exceptional individual from within our WeST network of schools to the new position of Head of Timetable Planning.

The core purpose of this role is to support school improvement through the delivery of efficient and effective secondary school timetables that have pupil learning and success at their heart.

The successful candidate will design, build (scheduling) and deliver the WeST secondary school timetables to enhance the learning experience for pupils, support staff in their teaching delivery and ensure the efficient use of school resources. The post holder will be expected to have significant contact with school leaders, including Headteachers - and liaise on an on-going basis throughout the year. An element of this role will be supporting the 'alignment' journey of WeST and where possible work with the DSSI and school leaders to schedule the effective use of Lead Practitioner capacity.

If you believe you have the knowledge, skills and personal attributes to successfully take on this exciting new role, then we would warmly welcome your application.

Closing date is 12:00pm on Friday 13 December 2019.

Interviews will provisionally take place on the **week beginning 16 December 2019.**

For a job description or to discuss the post in confidence with Rob Diment (Director of Secondary School Improvement), **please call Beth Alford (PA to the CEO), on 01752 891754 or email at BAIford@westst.org.uk** to arrange a convenient time.

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HOT DATES

Christmas Pay Dates

Devon and Plymouth

We are pleased to confirm that arrangements have been made to align the Christmas pay date for Devon and Plymouth payroll and that all staff will receive their December pay on the 20th of the month.

Cornwall

Following Staff Consultation, the Cornwall pay date will remain as 31st December.

Callington CC Community Carol Service

- 17th December
- 7pm start
- St Mary's Church, Callington



*Christmas Raffle
Daisy's First Aid
Leather Work
Sewing and Paint Crafts
Devon Wildlife Trust
Pom Stitch Tassel
Mia Thuysbaert (Author/Artist)
Handmade Bags
Woodcraft
Glitter Tattoos/Hair Braiding
Cleft Love
Made With Love
Wood Turning
Clothing
Bath Bombs
Beauty Therapist
Knitted Goods
Jewellery
Cards and Gifts
Avon
Bebeboutique-Childrens Clothes
Chocolate Tombola
Children's Toys
Red Cross Books
Holbrook's Sweets
Teas & Coffees
Hotdogs - Chips*



**Visit Santa's Grotto £2.50
(includes present)**



Portable Putts



Funtasia Inflatable Snow Globe

Countdown to Christmas!

21
days to go



Do you have a hot date to advertise?

E-mail balford@westst.org.uk with the details to get your event published on this page.